AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-37 (canceled).

38 (previously presented). A method of synthesis using a porous device comprising a body having an internal region which is porous, wherein a multiplicity of particles of an active material are entrapped within the internal region and held in position by a physical weld, wherein said active material comprises a resin and the method of synthesis comprises the step of contacting said porous device with a first reagent under conditions which cause said first reagent to react with said active material, so that a bond is formed between the active material and said first reagent or a fragment thereof.

39 (canceled).

40 (previously presented). A method according to claim 38, which involves contacting said porous device with reagents in order to prepare a compound which is covalently bonded to the active material of the porous device.

41 (previously presented). A method according to claim 38, wherein said active material is arranged to act as a support for a compound prepared in solid phase synthesis.

42 (previously presented). A method according to claim 38, wherein said active material includes a linker or is covalently bonded to a linker in said synthesis.

43 (previously presented). A method according to claim 38, which includes the step of cleaving a compound prepared from the active material.

44-46 (canceled).

47 (previously presented). A method according to claim 38, wherein said internal region comprises a random network of pores which network has a substantially fixed configuration.

48 (previously presented). A method according to claim 38, wherein said porous device has a fixed shape.

49 (previously presented). A method according to claim 38, wherein the porosity at a surface of the device is substantially the same as the porosity of the internal region adjacent said surface.

50 (previously presented). A method according to claim 38, wherein said porous device is substantially self-supporting.

51 (previously presented). A method according to claim 38, wherein said internal region of said porous device is defined by active material such that said internal region consists essentially of active material.

52 (previously presented). A method according to claim 38, wherein said porous device comprises an inert material and an active material.

53 (previously presented). A method according to claim 52, wherein the inert material is arranged to entrap the active material within the internal region of the device.

54 (previously presented). A method according to claim 53, wherein said inert material defines a porous support means and said active material is arranged within pores of said porous support means.

55 (previously presented). A method according to claim 52, wherein said active material is not covalently bonded to said porous support means.

56 (previously presented). A method according to claim 52, wherein the active material is in the form of a multiplicity of individual particles, wherein said particles are separated from one another by said inert material.

57 (previously presented). A method according to claim 52, wherein said inert material is a thermoplastic.

58 (previously presented). A method according to claim 38, wherein particles of said active material are substantially spherical.

59-74 (canceled).

75 (previously presented). A method of synthesis using a porous device comprising a body having an internal region which is porous, wherein an inert material which is a thermpolastic defines a porous support means and a multiplicity of particles of an active material are entrapped within the internal region in pores of said porous support means, wherein said pores of said porous support means are not defined by a fabric material, a filamentous material or a fibrous material and wherein said active material is a resin, the method of synthesis including the step of contacting said porous device with a first reagent under conditions which cause said first reagent to react with said active material, so that a bond is formed between the active material and said first reagent or a fragment thereof.

76 (previously presented). A method according to claim 38, wherein said internal region is monolithic.

77 (previously presented). A method according to claim 38, wherein the porosity of the internal region is substantially constant across its extent.

78 (previously presented). A method according to claim 38, wherein said porous device has a volume of at least 150 mm^3.

79 (previously presented). A method according to claim 38, wherein said active material is a cross-linked resin bead.

80 (previously presented). A method according to claim 38, wherein said porous device includes at least 40wt% of active material.

81 (previously presented). A method according to claim 52, wherein said device consists essentially of active material and inert material.

82 (previously presented). A method according to claim 38, wherein said active material is distributed throughout substantially the entirety of said internal region.

83 (previously presented). A method according to claim 52, wherein said inert material is a thermoplastic.

84 (previously presented). A method according to claim 83, wherein said active material is selected from the group comprising a polystyrene-based resin, a polyethylene glycol acrylamide (PEGA) resin and a substituted polyalkalene polymer resin.

85 (previously presented). A method according to claim 38, wherein said active material is selected from a substituted alkyl polystyrene, an aminomethylated polystyrene, a benzyloxybenzyl alcohol resin, a carboxypolystyrene, a polystyrene-divinylbenzene copolymer, a trityl chloride resin, a trityl resin, a phenoxy resin, a dihydropyran resin, a Merrifield resin, a formyl polystyrene, a benzhydrylamine resin, an oxime resin, a PEG polystyrene based resin, a polyethylene glycol acrylamide (PEGA) resin, chloromethyl polystyrene, hydroxymethyl polystyrene, aminomethyl polystyrene and a polyalkylene polymer substituted with a haloalkyl group.

86 (previously presented). A method according to claim 52, wherein said porous device includes at least 45wt% of active material and at least 45wt% of inert material.

87 (previously presented). A method according to claim 75, wherein said porous device includes at least 45wt% of active material and at least 45wt% of inert material.

88 (previously presented). A method according to claim 75, which involves contacting said porous device with reagents in order to prepare a compound which is covalently bonded to the active material of the porous device; and cleaving a compound prepared from the active material.